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Press Release

**ASMFC PUBLIC HEARING ON EMERGENCY MINIMUM SIZE
INCREASE IN AREA 2 COMMERCIAL LOBSTER FISHERY.**

On Wednesday, March 26th the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will hold a public hearing on the emergency minimum size increase recently mandated by the ASMFC Lobster Management Board for Area 2. To remain in compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American lobster, the Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) has filed an emergency regulation that raises the minimum size for commercial lobster in Area 2 to 3 11/32" effective Friday, March 14, 2003. A final increase to 3 3/8" is proposed for July 1, 2003.

March 26, 2003 (3-5PM)
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Pocasset Office
50A Portside Dr.
Pocasset, MA 02559

MarineFisheries will hold public hearings to discuss this emergency action and the proposed increase on April 14th in Gloucester, April 16th in Sandwich and April 17th in Braintree.

For further information please contact *MarineFisheries* at 617.626.1520.